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General Assembly

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Ad Hoc Open-ended Informal Working Group to study issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction
New York, 7-11 May 2012

Draft format and annotated provisional agenda and organization of work

I. Draft format

1. The meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Informal Working Group to study issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction is convened pursuant to paragraph 168 of General Assembly resolution 66/231.

2. In paragraph 168 of resolution 66/231, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to convene, in accordance with paragraph 167 of the same resolution and paragraphs 79 and 80 of resolution 60/30, with full conference services, a meeting of the Working Group from 7 to 11 May 2012 to provide recommendations to the Assembly. The Assembly also requested the Secretary-General to make every effort to meet the requirement for full conference services within existing resources.

Methods of work

3. The meeting will be presided over by two Co-Chairs, Ambassador Palitha T. B. Kohona, Permanent Representative of Sri Lanka to the United Nations, and Liesbeth Lijnzaad, Legal Adviser, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands, who were appointed by the President of the General Assembly in consultation with Member States and taking into account the need for representation from developed and developing countries.

4. The Co-Chairs prepared the present draft format for discussions in the Working Group in order to best facilitate its work.

5. The meetings of the Working Group will include plenary sessions, which will be open to participation by all those listed in paragraph 79 of General Assembly resolution 60/30, and closed sessions, as appropriate, in accordance with the relevant rules of procedure applicable to the meetings of the Assembly.

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Agenda and annotated agenda

6. The Co-Chairs have prepared a provisional agenda for the Working Group (A/AC.276/L.7). To assist delegations in preparing for the meeting, the Co-Chairs have also compiled an annotated provisional agenda and proposed organization of work (see sect. II).

Outcome of the meeting of the Working Group

7. The Working Group has been mandated by the General Assembly, in paragraph 168 of its resolution 66/231, to provide recommendations to the Assembly. To this end, the Co-Chairs will propose draft recommendations for the consideration of the Working Group. Delegations will have an opportunity to propose amendments to the draft recommendations prior to their adoption. The recommendations adopted by the Working Group will be made available to the Assembly at its sixty-seventh session as part of the report of the meeting, which will be transmitted by the Co-Chairs to the President of the sixty-seventh session of the Assembly.

II. Annotated provisional agenda and organization of work

Monday, 7 May 2012

10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Item 1. Opening of the meeting

8. The meeting of the Working Group will be opened by the Secretary-General of the United Nations or his representative.

9. The Co-Chairs will make opening remarks.

Item 2. Adoption of the agenda

10. The Working Group will be invited to consider and to adopt the agenda of the meeting, as contained in document A/AC.276/L.7.

Item 3. Organization of work

11. The Working Group will be invited to consider the organization of work of the meeting, as contained in the present document.

12. The schedule of agenda items is indicative, as agenda items may be advanced depending on the progress made in the discussions.

3-6 p.m.

Item 4. Conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction, in particular, together and as a whole, marine genetic resources, including questions on the sharing of benefits, measures such as area-based management tools, including marine protected areas, and environmental impact assessments, capacity-building, and the transfer of marine technology

13. Under this item, delegations will be invited to address the issues referred to in paragraph 1 (b) of the annex to the letter dated 30 June 2011 from the Co-Chairs of

the Ad Hoc Open-ended Informal Working Group to the President of the General Assembly (A/66/119), bearing in mind paragraph 1 (a) of the annex to the same document, which recommends that "[a] process be initiated, by the General Assembly, with a view to ensuring that the legal framework for the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction effectively addresses those issues by identifying gaps and ways forward, including through the implementation of existing instruments and the possible development of a multilateral agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea".

14. To facilitate the discussions under this agenda item, the Co-Chairs may invite speakers to make presentations on the topics identified in paragraph 1 (b) of the annex to the letter dated 30 June 2011 from the Co-Chairs of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Informal Working Group to the President of the General Assembly (document A/66/119). The presentations will be followed by discussions.

Tuesday, 8 May 2012

10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Item 4. Conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction, in particular, together and as a whole, marine genetic resources, including questions on the sharing of benefits, measures such as area-based management tools, including marine protected areas, and environmental impact assessments, capacity-building, and the transfer of marine technology (continued)

15. Delegations will continue their deliberations on agenda item 4.

3-6 p.m.

Item 5. Intersessional workshops aimed at improving understanding of the issues and clarifying key questions as an input to the work of the Working Group

16. Under this item, delegations will be invited to address the issues referred to in paragraph 1 (c) (ii) of the annex to document A/66/119.

17. In particular, it is proposed that delegations suggest possible options and approaches with regard to the organization and conduct of the proposed workshops, including but not limited to the venue, format, duration, frequency and topics to be addressed by these workshops. Delegations may also consider the issue of financing for the organization of the workshops, including the possibility of assistance to representatives from developing countries.

18. Delegations may consider adopting a list of topics, taking into account paragraph 45 of the annex to document A/66/119, as well as a calendar for the workshops.

Wednesday, 9 May 2012

10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Item 5. Intersessional workshops aimed at improving understanding of the issues and clarifying key questions as an input to the work of the Working Group (continued)

19. Delegations will continue their deliberations on agenda item 5.

3-6 p.m.

Item 6. Identification of gaps and ways forward, with a view to ensuring an effective legal framework for the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction

20. Under this item, delegations will be invited to consider the legal framework for the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction. In accordance with paragraph 1 (a) of the annex to General Assembly resolution 66/231, delegations will be invited to identify gaps and ways forward to effectively address those issues, including through the implementation of existing instruments and the possible development of a multilateral agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

21. On the basis of these discussions, delegations will also be invited to consider, as appropriate, paragraph 1 (d) of the annex to General Assembly resolution 66/231.

Thursday, 10 May 2012

10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Item 6. Identification of gaps and ways forward, with a view to ensuring an effective legal framework for the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction (continued)

22. Delegations will continue their deliberations on agenda item 6.

3-6 p.m.

[reserved]

Friday, 11 May 2012

10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Item 7. Consideration and adoption of recommendations to the General Assembly

23. The Co-Chairs will propose draft recommendations for the consideration of the Working Group. Delegations will have an opportunity to comment on the draft before adopting the recommendations to be transmitted to the General Assembly pursuant to paragraph 168 of resolution 66/231.

3-6 p.m.

Item 7. Consideration and adoption of recommendations to the General Assembly (continued)

Item 8. Other matters

24. The Working Group will consider any other matters that delegations may wish to raise.

Item 9. Closure of the meeting.